

Elisa Maria Wirsching

Website: elisawirsching.github.io

Email: e.m.wirsching@lse.ac.uk

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APPOINTMENTS

London School of Economics and Political Science

Assistant Professor in Political Science and Public Policy

2025–

Princeton University, School of Public and International Affairs

Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for the Study of Democratic Politics (CSDP)

2024–2025

EDUCATION

New York University

Ph.D. in Politics

2019–2024

- Dissertation: “Essays on the Politics of Local Bureaucracies”
- Winner of Dean’s Outstanding Dissertation Award (GSAS, NYU); Ronald H. Coase Best Dissertation Award (SIOE); Best Dissertation Award (APSA Urban and Local Politics Section)
- Committee: Hye Young You (Chair), Sanford Gordon, Julia Payson, Tara Slough, Arthur Spirling

London School of Economics and Political Science

MSc Political Science and Political Economy, with distinction

2016–2017

University of Mannheim

BA Political Science, Minor: Economics, with distinction

2013–2016

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Substantive: American Political Institutions, Bureaucratic Politics, Local Politics, Political Economy

Methodological: Natural Experiments, Spatial Data, Text Data

PUBLICATIONS

- [1] K. Heo and E. M. Wirsching, “Bureaucratic Resistance and Policy Inefficiency”, *American Political Science Review*, 2026. DOI: 10.1017/S0003055426101609.
- [2] E. M. Wirsching, “Political Power of Bureaucratic Agents: Evidence from Policing in New York City”, *The Journal of Politics*, 2026. DOI: 10.1086/742023.
- [3] E. M. Wirsching, “Sorting for K-Street: Post-Employment Regulations and Strategic Wage Setting in Congress”, *The Journal of Politics*, vol. 87, no. 2, pp. 664–679, 2025. DOI: 10.1086/732988.
- [4] E. M. Wirsching, P. L. Rodriguez, A. Spirling, and B. M. Stewart, “Multilanguage Word Embeddings for Social Scientists: Estimation, Inference, and Validation Resources for 157 Languages”, *Political Analysis*, pp. 1–8, 2024. DOI: 10.1017/pan.2024.17.

WORKING PAPERS & WORK IN PROGRESS

“The Limits of Merit: Career Pipelines and Representation in US Law Enforcement”

- APSA 2024 Best Paper Award, Urban and Local Politics Section

“State Coercion and the Political Mobilization of US Teachers” (*with Roxanne Rahnama and Tyler Simko*)

“The Political Consequences of Police Slowdowns” (*with Arvind Krishnamurthy and Dvir Yogev*)

“The Revolving Door for Political Elites: Policymakers’ Professional Background and Financial Regulation” (*EBRD Working Paper 222, 2018*)

GRANTS, AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Best Dissertation Award (APSA Urban and Local Politics Section)	2025
Ronald H. Coase Dissertation Award (Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics)	2025
Dean’s Outstanding Dissertation Award (New York University)	2025
Urban Doctoral Fellowship (New York University)	2023
Virginia Gray Graduate Research Award (APSA POP section)	2022
PolMeth Travel and Participation Award (Political Methodology Society, declined)	2022
George Downs Grant (New York University)	2022, 2023
MacCracken Fellowship (New York University)	2019–2024
DAAD Carlo-Schmid Fellowship (German Academic Exchange Service)	2017–2018
Youth ResearchEdge Winner (OECD Anti-Corruption & Integrity Forum)	2017
MSc PSPE Prize for Best Dissertation (London School of Economics)	2017
DAAD Graduate Scholarship (German Academic Exchange Service)	2016–2017
Best Overall Performance, BA Political Science (ABSOLVENTUM Mannheim)	2016
Study Scholarship (German National Academic Foundation)	2013–2017

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks & Workshops

EUI (CPSS Seminar); UCL (Departmental Research Seminar)	2026
Kings College London (DPE Seminar); Bocconi University (P&I Seminar); Kings College London (Public Policy and Regulation Workshop); Columbia University (Political Economy Seminar); Princeton University (Conference on Local Political Institutions, Bureaucracy, and Interest Groups); Yale University (CSAP American Politics Conference)	2025
Princeton University (CSDP Colloquium); Quality of Government Institute (Gothenburg University); Princeton-SNU Summer Institute; UChicago (Conference on Presidential Power, the Administrative State, and American Democracy)	2024
American University (Department of Government); University of Texas at Austin (LBJ School of Public Affairs); University of Virginia (Frank Batten School of Leadership & Public Policy); Indiana University Bloomington (Department of Political Science); University of California San Diego (Department of Political Science); London School of Economics and Political Science (Government Department); University of Rochester (Department of Political Science); MIT (Department of Political Science); European University Institute (Department of Political and Social Sciences); Aarhus University (Department of Political Science); Northeast Workshop in Empirical Political Science (NEWEPS) 20; NYU-LSE Conference on Political Economy	2023
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (Office of the Chief Economist, Speaker Series); Local Political Economy APSA Pre-Conference; CBS (Money in Politics Conference); Monash-Warwick-Zurich Text-as-Data Workshop; Text-as-Data (TADA) Annual Conference	2022

2018 OECD Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum; 7th Mannheim Energy Conference; 2018 Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (Workshop on Political Economy); 2018 NICEP Conference 2016–2019

Annual Meetings

American Political Science Association: 2021–2024
Midwest Political Science Association: 2023–2024
European Political Science Association: 2021, 2025
Society for Political Methodology: 2022

TEACHING

Approaches and Issues in Public Policy and Administration	2025-26
Course Convenor: Prof. Daniel Berliner	
Text as Data (graduate)	Spring 2023
TA for Prof. Arthur Spirling	
Quantitative Methods III (graduate)	Fall 2022, Spring 2024
TA for Prof. Tara Slough	
Power and Politics in America (undergraduate)	Spring 2022
TA for Prof. Chris Dawes	
Introduction to Research Methods (undergraduate)	Fall 2021
TA for Prof. Hye Young You	

EXPERIENCE

NYU Public Safety Lab	New York, NY
Graduate Research Affiliate	2021–present
NYU, Research Assistant	New York, NY
Research Assistant for Prof. Arthur Spirling	2021–2022
Research Assistant for Prof. Dimitri Landa	2021
Research Assistant for Prof. Hye Young You	2020
University of Mannheim, Chair of Econometrics	Lusaka, ZM
Research Associate for Prof. Markus Frölich	2018–2019
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)	London, UK
Analyst at the Office of the Chief Economist	2017–2018
Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW)	Mannheim, DE
Intern at the Research Group “International Distribution and Redistribution”	2016
EU Office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (FES)	Brussels, BE
Seminar Assistant	2015–2016
Collaborative Research Centre 884	Mannheim, DE
Research Assistant for Prof. Thomas König & Prof. Nicole Rae Baerg	2014–2016

RELEVANT SKILLS

Computing Skills: R, Stata, Stan, L^AT_EX, Python, SQL

Languages: German (native), English (near native), Spanish (advanced), French (basic)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Co-Organizer: NEWEPS-18 (2022), NYU Politics Department Women's Informal Network (2022-2023)

Discussant: Copenhagen Money in Politics Conference 2022, 2024

Reviewer: Journal of Politics; American Journal of Political Science; American Political Science Review; Political Analysis